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on the problem of combustion and special treatment of such leading manufactures as iron, textiles, provisions, pottery, flour, etc. One will look in vain, however, for a treatment of these subjects.

There is much that is good in the book. It gives evidence that the author is well posted and enthusiastic on his subject. So far as the student of chemistry is concerned, however, it is too popular to be taken very seriously. Processes are described in very general terms and the treatment is not sufficiently systematic nor comprehensive.

The style is not all that could be desired. There is a trying repetition of such words as "parlous," "apposite" and "purlieus;" and some exuberances of style might be pruned to advantage such as "foregather with," used in the sense of "discuss," "mislikable," and "forwarder" used as an adverb.

This book leaves the way still open for the much-needed university text on industrial chemistry, which shall give young men who are to become general officers of manufacturing corporations a decent knowledge of the subject and make them intelligent employers of professional chemists. It is to be hoped that the author will follow up this book with such a text.

EDW. D. JONES.

University of Michigan.

The Evolution of New China. By WILLIAM N. BREWSTER. (Cincinnati: Ohio Western Methodist Book Concern, 1908. Pp. vi, 316. \$1.25).

The author of this interestingly written volume has manifested a degree of sympathy for Chinese history and institutions which is rather uncommon in recent treatises on the Orient, and for this very reason such adverse criticism as he makes will probably be found inoffensive to the best lover of China. Mr. Brewster is a missionary to China and for that reason his volume deals very largely with ethical and religious questions; but the first half of his book is devoted to a careful survey of political and industrial conditions in China and furnishes a basis for the author's general conclusions.

Mr. Brewster voices the general verdict of those who are familiar with the Far East to the effect that Japanese merchants as a class are less trustworthy and less capable than the Chinese. he adds: "It is important for us to understand that the Chinese are no more conscientious, in the ethical sense, than their commercial rivals. Oriental peoples, as a rule, are great liars, and the Chinese are no exception. * * * Moreover, the petty shopkeeper in China cheats his customer, especially if he is a stranger, at every possible opportunity. But Chinese merchants have learned that the man from the West will continue to trade with the one who meets his obligations most promptly. marked contrast with the commercial probity of the Chinese is * * * A great people, but an imtheir political corruption. becile state; commercially sound, but politically rotten. The explanation may be summed up in one sentence: the government of China is not a Chinese government. When the Chinese people get a chance to have a share in the making and execution of their own laws, they will take as keen an interest in politics as any other nation."

The solution of most of China's difficulties will come with education, in Mr. Brewster's opinion. Educational activity in China is interestingly discussed, with especial reference to the need for trade and technical schools. It is the lack of this education which explains industrial stagnation in China, and not over-population, or idleness, or a landed aristocracy, or lack of resources.

Ozro C. Gould.

State Department, Washington, D. C.

Railroad Reorganization. By STUART DAGGETT, Instructor in Economics in Harvard University. Vol. IV of the Harvard Economic Studies. (Boston and New York: Houghton, Mifflin and Company, 1908. Pp. xii, 402. \$2 net).

It is seldom that a reviewer is accorded the opportunity of welcoming to the literature of economics a book which represents a successful excursion into a field which up to the time has remained practically unoccupied, especially if that field is one which offers much that is of importance in connection with the larger affairs